

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 SAM-01 /071 W
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R 051043Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5835
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 6740

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, USSR

SUBJECT: KING HUSSEIN TO VISIT USSR IN SUMMER 1976

REF: FBIS AMMAN 041210Y, 4 OCT 1975.

1. RADIO JORDAN ANNOUNCED THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER RIFAI TODAY AND CONVEYED INVITATION FOR KING HUSSEIN TO PAY STATE VISIT TO USSR NEXT SUMMER. ANNOUNCEMENT FROM PM'S OFFICE SAID KING ACCEPTED INVITATION. ANOTHER INVITATION ALSO ACCEPTED FOR A JORDANIAN OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO VISIT USSR TOWARD THE END OF THIS YEAR.

2. COMMENT: RUMORS OF KING'S VISIT TO USSR HAVE FLOATED IN AMMAN FOR SOME TIME (HE LAST VISITED USSR IN 1967) AND BECAME ESPECIALLY PRONOUNCED DURING HEIGHT OF SUMMER HAWK MISSILE CONTROVERSY. ALTHOUGH KING AND PRIME MINISTER WANT TO MAINTAIN IMAGE OF
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ACTIVISM AND INNOVATION IN INTERNATIONAL SCENE,

MODALITIES OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF KING'S USSR VISIT
INDICATED GOJ'S WISH PRESENTLY TO TRY TO PLAY EVENT
IN MINOR KEY WAY AND AS REACTION TO SOVIET INITIATIVE.
PM'S PRESS SECRETARY CALLED OUR ATTENTION TO FACT THAT
ANNOUNCEMENT CAME FROM PM'S OFFICE RATHER THAN PALACE AS
WOULD BE USUAL FOR STATE VISIT. MOREOVER, ANNOUNCE-
MENT STATES INVITATION TO KING "STEMS FROM THE SOVIET
DESIRE TO DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN RELATIONS BETWEEN
THE TWO COUNTRIES," AND IT EMPHASIZED THAT LATE 1975
VISIT OF JORDANIAN OFFICIAL DELEGATION ALSO PROPOSED
BY THE SOVIETS "TO DISCUSS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN
THE MIDDLE EAST AND EXCHANGE VIEWS CONCERNING THEM."
FURTHERMORE, PROJECTED DATE OF KING'S VISIT IS SUFFICIENTLY
FAR IN FUTURE (SUMMER 1976) TO LEAVE CONSIDERABLE
ROOM FOR MANEUVER BETWEEN NOW AND THEN. WE WILL BE
DEVELOPING FURTHER INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT IN
COMING DAYS.
SUDDARTH

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